



U.S. Mission to Saudi Arabia 2015 Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Student Leaders Program

The MEPI Student Leaders program is an intensive 6-week exchange program to the United States for approximately 120 undergraduate students from the Middle East and North Africa (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank/Gaza, and Yemen.). Students are divided among up to six

U.S. academic institutions where they develop leadership skills and expand their understanding of civil society, as well as the democratic process and how both may be applied in their home communities. Participants have the opportunity to meet their American peers, engage in local community service activities, and observe and take part in the governmental process on the local, state, and federal levels. The institutes include academic coursework, as well as study tours to various regions of the United States. Upon completion of the U.S.-based programs, host institutes work with participants to implement civic engagement programs in their home communities. An alumni event is generally held in the region approximately 6 months after the U.S. portion of the program.

Who is Eligible?

MEPI Student Leaders is open to full-time Saudi university students between the ages of 20 and 24. Students from across Saudi Arabia are encouraged to apply but we prefer applicants from outside Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam/Al-Khobar, when possible. Those who have traveled to the U.S. or studied abroad are ineligible. Applicants should be in good academic standing and should demonstrate sufficient English-language skills to participate in U.S. university-level classes. Applicants must be Saudi citizens and cannot hold U.S. citizenship or be a U.S. Legal Permanent Resident. MEPI Student Leaders acceptance is based on merit. Applicants should have demonstrated leadership abilities in their schools and communities, and have a desire to participate in community service activities. Students must return to Saudi Arabia after completion of the program. **We will only accept complete applications submitted by students directly. The application deadline is February 3, 2015,** and finalist interviews will be the week of February 8, 2015.

How to Apply

Submit your completed application to sylep@state.gov v. If you have any questions or would like to request an application, email sylep@state.gov